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PATENT  
Docket No. D 8927B-OC/FOHPT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re: Application of Franz-Josef Carduck, et al., a Continuation under  
37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) of:

091055.00 2  
Serial No. 09/277,399

Examiner: A. Chambers

Filed: 03/26/99

Art Unit: 3753

TITLE: A LIQUID DISTRIBUTOR

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Preliminary to examination, please amend the claims as follows:

Cancel claim 15.

Amend claim 1 as shown below:

A<sup>1</sup>  
1. (amended) A liquid distributor, said distributor being in the form of a channel distributor comprising a drainage outlet in the form of a drainage pipe having a cross-section, at the upper end of the drainage pipe, which tapers downward in the shape of a nozzle, wherein the inner wall of the nozzle is comprised of a material resistant to the adherence of solids which would block the flow of liquid through the outlet.

Add the following claims:

A<sup>2</sup>  
18. (New) A liquid distributor having a tapering drainage pipe in the shape of a